

SEP 30 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/716,739 Confirmation No. 6774
 Applicant : PANDIAN et al.
 Filed : November 18, 2003
 Title : METHODS AND KITS FOR DETECTING ITA IN A BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE

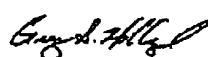
 TC/A.U. : 1600/1641
 Examiner : COUNTS, G.W.

 Docket No. : A-1789 DIV
 Customer No. : 33197

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, to fax number 703-872-9306, on the date indicated below.

Date: September 30, 2004


By: _____
Greg S. Hollrigel

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO APRIL 30, 2004 OFFICE ACTION AND
PETITION FOR TWO-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the April 30, 2004 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action was due July 30, 2004. Applicant hereby petitions for a two-month extension of time. A response with a two-month extension of time is due September 30, 2004. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the petition fee for a two-month extension of time (\$420.00) to Deposit Account No. 13-5135. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed. Please amend the subject application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and that the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned representative invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 30, 2004

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